



PUBLIC NOTICE

**Federal Communications
Commission
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The International Bureau Reissues Procedures to Provide Emergency Communications in Areas Affected by Hurricanes Wilma, Katrina, and Rita

The International Bureau previously announced procedures to help emergency communications services initiate, resume, and maintain operations in the areas affected by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. This public notice expands those procedures to include communications in areas affected by Hurricane Wilma. For additional information, applicants should contact the International Bureau (IB) staff specified below.

Special Temporary Authority (Satellite Earth and Space Stations): Emergency requests for special temporary authority (STA) related to Hurricanes Wilma, Katrina and/or Rita may be submitted by letter, e-mail or, if necessary, by telephone. Applicants also may file requests electronically through the International Bureau Filing System (IBFS) at <http://svartifoss2.fcc.gov/myibfs/welcome.do>. All requests should provide the technical parameters of the proposed operation and a contact point. The Bureau will handle all STA requests on an expedited basis. Consistent with Section 309(c)(2)(G) of the Communications Act, 47 U.S.C. § 309(c)(2)(G), the Bureau may grant STAs for up to 30 days.

To ensure that the Bureau has a complete record of the action, applicants who do not file through the IBFS should follow-up the initial request with an electronic version submitted through the IBFS as soon as possible. In this filing, operators should note in the first description field on the electronic STA form that this is a "Hurricane Wilma-, Hurricane Katrina- and/or Hurricane Rita-related STA request" and the date the initial request was granted.

Satellite earth and space station operators who were previously granted Hurricane Katrina and/or Hurricane Rita-related STAs are encouraged to evaluate whether they will need to continue operations beyond the term of the initial STA granted. If such additional authority is required, the operator is strongly encouraged to contact the International Bureau as soon as possible to initiate such a request for additional authority. As with the initial STA request, an extension may also be submitted through the IBFS system, by letter, e-mail, or, if necessary, by telephone.

Ex Parte Rules. The International Bureau views presentations relating to pending Hurricane related STAs as falling under the Section 1.1204(a)(3) exemption from the prohibitions in restricted proceedings. *See* 47 C.F.R. § 1.1204(a)(3).¹ Accordingly, pursuant to Section 1.1204(a)(3) and 1.1200(a) of the

¹ Section 1.1204(a)(3) provides, in pertinent part, that the following types of presentations are exempt from the prohibitions in restricted proceedings: "The presentation directly relates to an emergency in which safety of life is endangered or substantial loss of property is threatened..." *See* 47 C.F.R. § 1.1204(a)(3). Section 1.1200(a) of the

Commission's rules, Hurricane related STAs will be subject to the "permit-but-disclose" procedures once a third party makes a presentation on a Hurricane related STA.²

Special Temporary Authority (Submarine Cables and International 214s): Emergency requests for special temporary authority (STA) related to Hurricanes Wilma, Katrina and/or Rita may be submitted by letter, e-mail or, if necessary, telephone. Applicants also may file requests electronically through the International Bureau Filing System (IBFS) at <http://svartifoss2.fcc.gov/myibfs/welcome.do>>. The Bureau will handle all STA requests as expeditiously as possible.

To ensure that the Bureau has a complete record of the action, applicants who do not file through the IBFS should follow-up the initial request with an electronic version submitted through the IBFS as soon as possible. In this filing, operators should note in the first description field on the electronic STA form that this is a "Hurricane Wilma-, Hurricane Katrina- and/or Hurricane Rita-related STA request" and the date the initial request was granted.

IB Contacts During Business Hours:

Satellite Space Stations and Earth Stations:

- Cassandra Thomas, 202-418-0734, Cassandra.Thomas@fcc.gov
- Fern Jarmulnek, 202-418-0751, Fern.Jarmulnek@fcc.gov
- Karl Kensinger, 202-418-0773, Karl.Kensinger@fcc.gov
- Andrea Kelly, 202-418-7877, Andrea.Kelly@fcc.gov
- Robert Nelson, 202-418-2341, Robert.Nelson@fcc.gov
- Scott Kotler, 202-418-0596, Scott.Kotler@fcc.gov

Submarine Cables and International 214s:

- James Ball, 202-418-0427, James.Ball@fcc.gov
- Claudia Fox, 202-418-1527, Claudia.Fox@fcc.gov
- George Li, 202-418-1462, George.Li@fcc.gov

IB Contacts During Non-Business Hours:

- IB Situation Room: 202-418-2368

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Commission's rules also provides, in pertinent part, that "[w]here the public interest so requires in a particular proceeding, the Commission and its staff retain the discretion to modify the applicable *ex parte* rules by order, letter or public notice." 47 C.F.R. § 1.1204(a)(3).

² As explained in note 1 to Section 1.1208 of the Commission's rules, if an application is uncontested, the party and the Commission may freely make presentations. Once additional "parties" as defined by Section 1.1202(d) are involved in the proceeding, however, then pursuant to Section 1.1208 of the Commission's rules the proceeding is treated as restricted and *ex parte* presentations are prohibited. 47 C.F.R. § 1.1208.